



A NOTE FROM REVEREND REBECCA

As we embark on our journey with the Narrative Lectionary this year, here is a snippet from Pastor Rebecca's last sermon in the series on the Lord's Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer, if anything, helps us to understand that we are not in control. We may think we are in control of our lives, but we are not. And because of this we submit to a God, who created us, loves us and calls us by name. We say to this God, "Please please do not let me get messed up into systems and powers I don't even understand. Save me for what is good, holy, just and pleasing to you, Oh God."

This salvation that we ask for is not just about saving us from being lonely, or alcoholic or depressed. In the salvation offered to us by Jesus Christ our Lord we are saved for something. We are saved to do things. We are saved to be somebody. We are saved to align with one another in full pursuit of the kingdom of God. Salvation is an adventure.

We pray this prayer every week and when we do, we should hold onto our hats, for we are submitting ourselves to a God to who loves justice and seeks mercy. We are submitting ourselves to a God who wants us to work on behalf of the poor and give release to the captives. We are submitting ourselves to a God who wants us to love without conditions and to be truly free. We submit ourselves to a God who pushes us beyond our comfort zones and does immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine. We submit ourselves to a God who cares for us and comforts us. We submit ourselves to a God who is love.

You can watch the Lord's Prayer series by following the YouTube link on our website, www.secondfirst.org



AN UPDATE TO TREADING CAREFULLY - AN ENTRY POINT INTO RACE IN AMERICA

by Andy Newgren

Treading Carefully: An Entry Point to Race in America has begun to unpack the American cultural undercurrent that is white privilege. This concept is complex and potentially threatening, but in truth must be examined prior to entering into deeper conversations seeking racial equity in our society. This concept is not meant to be to erase one's achievements; it simply is a set of conditions that people of color do not experience.

Peggy McIntosh, at the time working at the Wellesley Centers for Women, was not the first to write about white privilege, but her piece titled "The Invisible Knapsack" was the first to truly gain traction and jumpstart the conversation. She lists fifty conditions* that her African American friends and colleagues cannot count on and expect. This is a helpful list to review as it assists those of us who are white to better understand the experience of being a person of color in America. Claudia Rankine, author of *Citizen: An American Lyric* and newly named MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient, writes "just getting along shouldn't be an ambition."

Frankly, this is hard stuff. I would encourage you to come, to pray for those of us who gather, to pray for our community and congregation. As we begin to turn towards the theological, our call to discipleship may very well give us something to fear. Moses led the Hebrews across the sea liberating them from Egyptian slavery where they promptly began wandering the desert for forty years. I don't promise a happy ending but instead something that warrants our commitment.

* You can find this list on our website, www.secondfirst.org.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES



Fall Cleanup of Church Grounds October 8

On Saturday, October 8 from 9 am - noon, we will be doing some light weeding, adding mulch, and doing a general cleanup on the church grounds. Refreshments will be served following cleanup. Contact Richard Lierman, 815-519-8367, to add your name as a helper and for any questions. Or call or email Debbie in the church office to be added to the list. We're hoping for a great turnout! All ages welcome.

The Monster Mash-up October 8

Transit Youth Ministry welcomes all high school and middle school students to The Monster Mash-up on October 8 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Be ready for a night of Halloween games and treats! Zombie Operation, Pumpkin Bombs, and a Scavenger Hunt are just a few things on the slab. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this event, please contact: courtney.jonsson@secondfirst.org



CROP Hunger Walk October 16

Have you become a Hunger Walker, either in person or in spirit? On Sunday, October 16, hundreds will join together walking to fight hunger around the world and in our city through the Rockford Pantry Coalition. The 2015 Walk raised \$42,480. Our

congregation alone raised \$12,393. Our success was due to the efforts of church members and friends like you. We need your participation this year. See David Jones or Bob Saunders to pick up an envelope. Thanks for helping feed the hungry - both in the Greater Rockford area and throughout the world.

Gordon Circle Meeting October 20

The Leona B. Gordon Circle will hold its monthly meeting, Thursday, October 20 at noon at the church. Jackie Chamberlain will chair this meeting. The hostess' for this meeting will be Jan Novak and Mary Young.

ARC Halloween Rec Night October 27

The ARC of Winnebago County is a program that serves Children and Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Five to six times a year, the ARC Adult program uses our gym and facilities for Rec Night. Our next Rec Night is Thursday October 27. It will be a Halloween themed event with a DJ. Members of our Mission Ministry Team help support Rec Nights. Contact: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org.

Remembering our Loved Ones November 6

We have a lovely tradition at Second First. The first Sunday in November we celebrate All Saints Day. In this worship we remember all of our saints who have passed away within the past year (Nov. 2015 - Nov. 2016). We hope you will join us for this special worship. Contact: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

Primetime and Youth Update

Primetime has started on Wednesday evenings. Courtney and Dyan are now learning bells along with their groups. Parents - if you have not filled out a new registration form for your child for Sunday School/Primetime/Youth Group, please see Dyan or Courtney so they have current information and waivers on file. Contact: dyan.lofgren@secondfirst.org.

Calling for Announcements on Sunday

Would you like your church project, or Ministry Team activity to be included in our Sunday Announcements? Please email them to debbie.wise@secondfirst.org by the Wednesday before our Worship Service. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Koats for Kids

The 4th annual Salvation Army Koats for Kids program, co-sponsored by SecondFirst Church (actually started in 1999 at FPC by Don Freedlund) is September 30 through October 21, with 38 sites (Schnucks is no longer participating). The congregation can respond in four ways: by pickup and delivery from Huts and Barrels (coordinated by Bill Baskin and Bruce Johnson), donating coats, hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to our barrel in the South Lobby, and/or volunteer through Salvation Army (call 815 708-6933) for sorting (October 25-26, 9 am-4 pm) or Distribution Day, October 27. Contact: drbaskin@hotmail.com

2016 EVENTS NOVEMBER

- 11/5, 10 am - Soup Kitchen
- 11/6 - Remembering Loved Ones
- 11/8 - Presbytery Stronghold
- 11/20 - Stewardship Sunday & Pilgrim Potluck
- 11/23 - No Prime Time
- 11/24 - Office closed for Thanksgiving
- 11/25 - Office closed



September's Soup Kitchen volunteers

DECEMBER

- 12/3 - Cookie Walk
- 12/10 - Soup Kitchen
- 12/15 - Gordon Circle Peterson Meadows
- 12/18 - Potluck & Caroling
- 12/24, 4:30 pm - Christmas Eve service
- 12/25, 10 am - Christmas Day Worship service
- 12/26 - Office closed



Hardworking Thrift Shop Ladies



A moment during Early Word

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Saturday, October 1

10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

Sunday, October 2

Communion Sunday

9:00 AM – Koffee Klass

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:20 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour

11:15 AM – Christian Ed

11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop

5:00 PM –Transit: Blue Line

Youth Group

Monday, October 3,

9:15 AM – Free Showers

2:00 PM – After School Club

5:30 PM - Jeremiah Dev Noc

6:00 PM – Adult Ed Comm.

7:00 PM – Faith &

Environment Comm.

Tuesday October 4

7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer

Breakfast

9:00 AM – Thrift Shop

2:00 PM – After School Club

4:30 PM – Stewardship

Committee

5:30 PM – AED Class

Wednesday, October 5

10:00 AM – Staff Meeting

12:00 PM – JD NIC

1:00 PM – AED Staff

Training

2:00 PM – After School Club

3:00 PM – Literacy Training

5:00 PM – Membership

Ministry

5:30 PM – Prime Time

6:00 PM – Transit: Orange

Line Youth Group

Thursday, October 6

9:15 AM - Free Showers

9:30 AM – Carillons

9:30 AM - Deaconesses

2:00 PM – After School Club

6:00 PM – Bellcanto

7:00 PM - Choir

Friday, October 7

2:00 PM – After School Club

Saturday, October 8

10:00 AM – Bridge Clinic

6:00 PM – Transit Rec Night

Monster Mash

Sunday, October 9

9:00 AM – Koffee Klass

9:20 AM – Wee Worship

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:20 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour

with Hispanic Ministry

Presentation

11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop

5:00 PM – Transit: Blue Line

Youth Group

Monday, October 10

9:15 AM – Free Showers

2:00 PM – After School Club

5:30 PM – Deacons

Tuesday, October 11

8:00 AM – Men’s Fellowship

9:00 AM – Thrift Shop

2:00 PM – After School Club

6:00 PM – Strategic

Planning Workshop

Wednesday, October 12

10:00 AM – Staff Meeting

2:00 PM – After School Club

3:00 PM – Literacy Training

5:00 PM – Trustees

5:30 PM – Prime Time

6:00 PM – Transit: Orange

Line Youth Group

Thursday, October 13

9:15 AM - Free Showers

9:30 AM - Carillons

2:00 PM – After School Club

6:00 PM – Bellcanto

7:00 PM - Choir

Friday, October 14

1:00 PM – Horizons Bible

Study

2:00 PM – After School Club

Saturday, October 15

10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

Sunday, October 16

9:00 AM – Koffee Klass

9:15 AM – Memorial Comm

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:20 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour

11:15 AM – Fellowship

11:15 AM – Music Ministry

11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop

2:00 PM – CROP Walk

5:00 PM – Transit: Blue Line

Youth Group

Monday, October 17

9:15 AM – Free Showers

2:00 PM – After School Club

Tuesday, October 18

7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer

Breakfast

9:00 AM – Thrift Shop

1:00 PM – Executive Comm

2:00 PM – After School Club

5:30 PM – Mission Ministry

Wednesday, October 19

10:00 AM – Staff Meeting

2:00 PM – After School Club

3:00 PM - Literacy Training

5:30 PM – Prime Time

6:00 PM – Transit: Orange

Line Youth Group

Thursday, October 20

9:15 AM – Free Showers

9:30 AM – Carillons

12:00 PM – Gordon Circle

2:00 PM – After School Club

6:00 PM - Bellcanto

7:00 PM - Choir

Friday, October 21

2:00 PM – After School Club

Saturday, October 22

10:00 AM – Bridge Clinic

10:00 AM – Women’s Brunch

Rockford Country Club

1:30 PM - Wedding

Sunday, October 23

Bell Sunday

9:00 AM – Koffee Klass

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:20 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour

Sunday, October 23 cont...

11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop

5:00 PM –Transit: Blue Line

Youth Group

Monday, October 24

9:15 AM – Free Showers

2:00 PM – After School Club

6:00 PM – Peanut Brittle

Tuesday October 25

7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer

Breakfast

9:00 AM – Thrift Shop

2:00 PM – After School Club

Wednesday, October 26

10:00 AM – Staff Meeting

2:00 PM – After School Club

5:30 PM – Prime Time- Baked

Potato Bar

6:00 PM – Transit: Orange

Line Youth Group

Thursday, October 27

9:15 AM - Free Showers

9:30 AM - Carillons

2:00 PM – After School Club

5:30 PM – Governing Council

6:00 PM – ARC Halloween

Party

6:00 PM - Bellcanto

7:00 PM – Choir

Friday, October 28,

2:00 PM – After School Club

Saturday, October 29

10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

Stronghold Work Day

Sunday, October 30

9:00 AM – Koffee Klass

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:20 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour

11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop

4:00 PM – Trunk or Treat

5:00 PM –Transit: Blue Line

Youth Group

Monday, October 31

9:15 AM – Free Showers

2:00 PM – After School Club

ANGOLA PARTNERSHIP TEAM VISIT TO ANGOLA

by Marge Maynard

The Angola Partnership Team had a delegation team visit in Angola from late July through early August with six team members visiting in 13 of the country's 18 provinces. Rev. Mike Solberg, leader of the delegation along with his wife Janine, represented Union Church of Hinsdale, while Cedric and Michelle McCay and Edward and Doris Davis represented Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. These persons serve as members of the Angola Partnership Team of the Illinois Conference and were able to visit major portions of the country and learn new priorities for our work with our partners in the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola. In the coming months we will be working to help establish and fund a church-sponsored hospital and helping to staff this hospital in Dondi, one of the important mission stations of our partner church. The hope is to raise funds to develop an endowment which can sustain a yearly stipend for a doctor at this facility. A second priority is to develop a university, also at Dondi, which will help to continue an increasing need for education as empowerment for Angola citizens. Access to higher education after high school is very limited. A third priority is to help redevelop agricultural opportunities in order to help provide food resources and develop church land to meet these particular needs.

The Angola partnership has gained several new members in recent months, and we are excited about our mission priorities. If you'd like to be a part of our team, please be in touch with Rev. Tom Norwalk through email at: ilconfm@gmail.com. We'd love to engage even more of our Illinois Conference churches and members in this vital work for the future of the Angolan people.

SPECIAL UCC AND PCUSA OFFERING OCTOBER 2

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, you are asked to support the work of our two denominations through their special offerings. They are the Presbyterian Peace & Global Witness Offering (PGW) and the United Church of Christ Helping Neighbors In Need (NIN). Please look for special envelopes to make your donation. Your gift will be shared proportionally with both offerings.

YOU'RE INVITED: ILLINOIS CONFERENCE'S 6TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

You need not be a gardener to enjoy this 24-hour, relaxing get-away where you can prune, re-pot and fertilize your spirit while engaging God's Holy Spirit. It's a great time to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, and bring along some friends! We will gather to explore our theme with a variety of activities including free time. Enjoy our beautiful Pilgrim Park accommodations and surroundings as summer leaves and autumn begins. As women, we often feel called to be "there" for others, but to do that we need to also take care of ourselves. Return home feeling re-energized, refreshed and ready to bloom in full, magnificent color. For more information call Carol Currier-Frighetto at 815-478-4485 or Pilgrim Park 815-447-2390 to register.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep these members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. Additions to the prayer list are always welcome. Prayer requests will be listed for one month. If you would like to remain on longer, please notify the office.

Continue prayers for Wes Hegge's father, Amy & Janet Stringer, Julie Rollins, Phil Turner, the Stratemeyer Family, Philip & Shirley Davidson, and Miriam Richardson.

We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of Keith Mulford who passed away Tuesday, September 27.

And we pray for all those at home and in long-term care facilities, who are not able to be in worship regularly, but who remain part of our family of faith:Thomas Hill, Jim & Nora Jean Rollins, Norma & Wayne Nicholson, Nancy Bert, Linda Burrignt, Jan Elliott, Elsie Kayser, Marge Kildow, Ruthann Lenard, Beverly Lindsey, Russell Morgan, John Showers, Marilyn Thayer, Ruth Todd, Ward Wallace, and Willene Ziebell.

PEANUT BRITTLE PARTIES

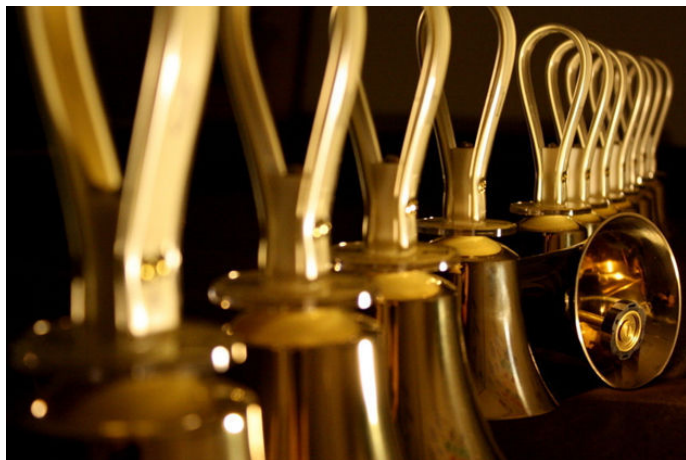
The Leona B. Gordon Circle will be making the famous peanut brittle again this Fall. Anyone who wants to know the secret of how to make this delicious treat is invited to join us in the church kitchen on:

- ▶ **Monday, October 24, at 6 :00 pm**
- ▶ **Monday, November 7 at 9:00 am**
- ▶ **Monday, November 14 at 6:00 pm**
- ▶ **Thursday, November 17 at 9:00 am**



NEWS FROM EMERSON HALL - INNOVATION & TRADITION

by Julie Cook Ramirez



"With innovation and tradition."

I am often reminded of those words, shared by Chairperson Jennifer Archer as the Bell Task Force did its work this summer. It has become somewhat of a rallying cry as I approach this new bell year. Never would I leave behind the rich traditions and wealth of music which was lovingly selected—and often arranged—by those who came before me. At the same time, I like to shake things up. Anyone who knows me in the context of handbells will tell you that.

We are mere weeks into the new program year and we're off and ringing! Joyce, Sarah, and I have carefully selected pieces for each of our respective groups to share on the following dates:

October 23 – Sunday Worship: Martins, Bellcantos, and Peanuts

November 13 – Sunday Worship: Carillons

December 11 – Sunday Worship: Martins, Angelus, and Bellcantos

December 17 – Christmas Vibrations Concert (3 pm)

December 18 – Sunday Worship: Peanuts and Carillons

The inaugural bell performances of the year will fast be upon us, so "watch this space!" We'll be ringing for the glory of God...with innovation and tradition. Contact: julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org.

GO AND DO THE SAME

This year's stewardship theme is the climactic line from the parable of the Good Samaritan:

"Go and Do the Same." (Luke 10:25-37).

The implication is that God calls us to "go and do the same" as the Samaritan did with all our resources—material, human, and natural. Watch for this call beginning October 30 to renew your commitment to Jesus and his church.

YOU'RE INVITED: INSPIRATIONAL BRUNCH OCTOBER 22



Inspirational Brunch sponsored by Women's Fellowship

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 am,
Rockford Country Club

The speaker is Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell. Martha, a native of upstate New York, began her ministry with Mayfield Congregational Church UCC, Sycamore, IL in May 2013. However, her first call in ordained ministry came from a church in inner city St. Louis, where she did intensive urban work in some of the poorest neighborhoods of St. Louis. Over the course of 35 years as an ordained minister, Martha served many kinds and sizes of churches and has also served social

service agencies such as hospice and domestic violence programs. Martha has a reputation of being a wonderful story teller. Please do plan to come for a delicious brunch and be inspired, encouraged, and motivated by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell as she shares her experiences with each of us. Seating is limited; cost \$15.00/person. Contact: Debbie Wise with your reservation today, 815-963-8431 or debbie.wise@secondfirst.org. Reservation deadline October 18.

SUNDAE SUNDAY AT SECOND FIRST

by Carolyn Greenlaw

Sundae Sunday on September 11 was the ice cream kickoff of our church fall programs. After worship, in the gym, we were treated to delicious ice-cream sundaes by the Deconesses and the Fellowship Ministry Teams.

There were twenty two tables set up with Sundae toppings and poster displays of each of our Ministry Teams that explained their work at the Church. We had opportunity to sign up with team projects and to visit the community booths. Thanks to Mary Spindler and Mary Makulec for the carnation center pieces that looked good enough to eat. Kudos to each team for the creativity and time to make their poster displays, they will be on view at the South Door bulletin board. It is amazing all the work that we do at Second First to energize Rockford and Beyond with God's Grace.



TRUNK OR TREAT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON OCTOBER 30

We are looking for help with Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 30 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm.

We need decorated cars to help pass out goodies to our trick or treaters. If you are not able to participate but want to be involved; we are also in need of candy to pass out. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Archer, Sarah Hallberg or Dyan Lofgren at dyan.lofgren@secondfirst.org.

